

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AUTHORIZED A. C. M. P.



BLACK DIAMOND

DIAMOND



10¢

100 PDC

3
FEATURE-LENGTH
BLACK DIAMOND
STORIES!

WESTERN

JUNE
NO. 35

LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS



LOOKS LIKE CURTAINS FOR US THIS TIME, BLACK DIAMOND, OLD FRIEND!

B..BUT IT AINT LEGAL!

COURAGE, BUMPER, WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

OKAY, MEN, BRING 'EM OUT AND STRING THE VARMINTS UP!

LEV GLEASON
PUBLICATIONS



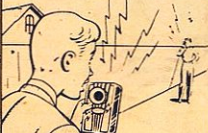


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U. S. GOVERNMENT PATENT NO. 2,536,179



<p>TWO-WAY WALKIE TALKIES</p> 	<p>TWO-WAY COMMUNICATIONS: Set consists of two (2) "transceivers" ready to hook up between any two points. No license needed! Simply attach wire coil (included with each set) to terminals on each Walkie Talkie. As easy to use as your telephone. You need not fear interference from buildings, walls, fences, trees, etc. Your Walkie Talkie will operate anywhere. Clear voice transmission guaranteed.</p>
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BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BLACK DIAMOND

in "DEAD ON ARRIVAL"

"MURDER IS MURDER—WHETHER IT IS A SHERIFF OR AN OUTLAW WHO IS SHOT IN THE BACK"—SO SAID BLACK DIAMOND! BUT LEAD STRYKER, "REFORMED" DESPERADO, LIKED HIS VERY PROFITABLE BUSINESS OF TRAFFICKING IN OUTLAWS WHO RATED REWARD POSTERS AND DIDN'T MIND KILLING LAWMEN AS A SIDELINE... PARTICULARLY WHEN THE MEDDLER WAS THE BLACK DIAMOND!



ONE RAINY NIGHT IN BROWN HOOK, ARIZONA THREE EXHAUSTED MEN CAME OUT OF THE STORM AND INTO THE LUCKY SEVEN SALOON...

I RAISE YA FOUR...
WHAT IS IT, GINGER?

I GOT SOMETHIN' TO TELL YA RIGHT AWAY, LEAD... IN PRIVATE!

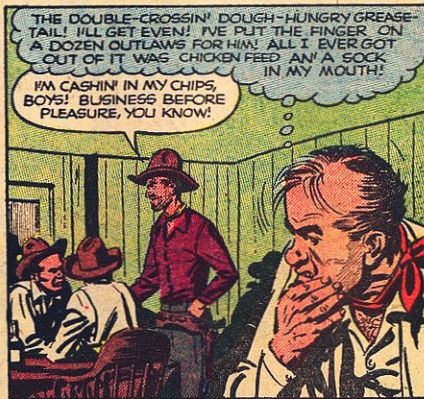


IT BETTER BE GOOD, GINGER!
I WAS HOLDIN' A FULL HOUSE!

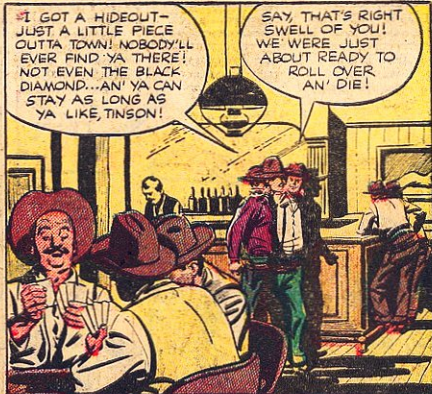
IT'S AS GOOD AS THE GOLD YOU'LL COLLECT FROM THE SHERIFF! SEE THEM DROWNED RATS THAT JUST WALKED IN? THEY'RE WORTH \$1,500 APECE DEAD!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT BROWN HOOK...

THE TINSON BROTHERS WERE HERE ALL RIGHT, SHERIFF! WE TRAILED 'EM TO BROWN HOOK LAST NIGHT! BUT THEY JUST UP AND DISAPPEARED IN THIN AIR! HASN'T ANYBODY IN TOWN SEEN 'EM?

BEG PARDON! DID I HEAR SOMEONE SAY THE TINSON BROTHERS?

THEY'RE RIGHT OUT THERE—STONE DEAD! THE COYOTES CAME SNEAKIN' 'ROUND MY RANCH LAST NIGHT, AIMIN' TO STICK US UP! WE FOUGHT BACK—THE BOYS AN' ME!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE TINSON BROTHERS MADE BOOT HILL IN JIG TIME!

SPEAKING OF CEMETERIES, STRYKER, HOW COME YOU'RE NOT IN BOOT HILL, TOO? YOU BELONG THERE, FROM WHAT I REMEMBER OF YOU AND YOUR GANG!

I'M A REFORMED CHARACTER, BLACK DIAMOND! I'M ON THE SIDE OF LAW AN' ORDER! LET THE CHUMPS LIKE TINSON BUST THE LAW! NOT ME!

LOOKS LIKE STRYKER IS MAKING A GOOD LIVING OVER OTHER PEOPLE'S DEAD BODIES!

STRYKER MAKES A NICE FEE PER HEAD, DOESN'T HE?

YES, THERE'S A REWARD OUT FOR EACH HOMBRE STRYKER BRINGS IN DEAD! W..WHAT ARE YOU DRIVIN' AT, DIAMOND?

THIS DEAD-ON-ARRIVAL BUSINESS! IT HAS THE SMELL OF RAT TO IT! A RAT NAMED STRYKER!

A HALF HOUR LATER, OUTSIDE BROWN HOOK...

SO YOU ACTUALLY THINK STRYKER HAS BEEN KNOCKIN' OFF THESE OUTLAW FOR THE REWARD MONEY?

YOU HEARD WHAT THAT BARTENDER SAID, BUMPER! HOW FRIENDLY STRYKER WAS WITH THE TINSON BROTHERS LAST NIGHT! HOW STRYKER WAS THE LAST PERSON TO SEE THEM ALIVE! STRYKER IS GOING TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS!

MEANWHILE, AT STRYKER'S RANCHHOUSE...

FRESH MEAT ARRIVED WHEN YOU WERE OUT, LEAD! GINGER SENT US A COUPLE OF HOUSE GUESTS WORTH A GRAND APIECE!

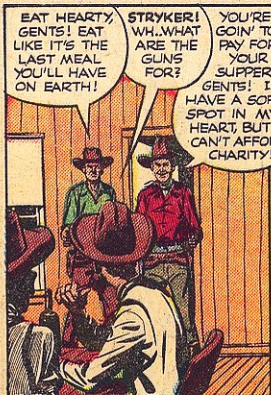
DID YA MAKE OUR GUESTS TO HOME?

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



YEP! THEY'RE EATIN' LIKE HOGS FATTENIN' THEMSELVES BEFORE THE KILL!

GOOD! I BROUGHT SOME TASTY DESSERT FOR 'EM! AIN'T NOthin' TOO GOOD FOR OUR GUESTS, Y' KNOW....



EAT HEARTY, GENTS! EAT LIKE IT'S THE LAST MEAL YOU'LL HAVE ON EARTH!

STRYKER! WH..WHAT ARE THE GUNS FOR?

YOU'RE GOIN' TO PAY FOR YOUR SUPPER, GENTS! I HAVE A SOFT SPOT IN MY HEART, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD CHARITY!



...SO I'LL TAKE A MERE THOUSAND APIECE FOR THE MEAL! PLUG 'EM, BOYS!

STRYKER, YOU DOG! YA BRUNG US HERE TO KILL US!



YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME! I'M GETTIN' AWAY TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT YA!

AFTER HIM! HE'LL SPOIL EVERYTHIN'!



GOOD! YA HIT HIM! FOLLOW HIM! KILL HIM! ANYTHING—BUT DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

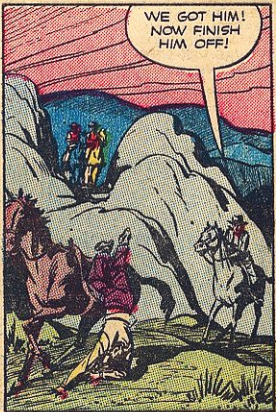
I G...GOT TO MAKE IT TO T...TOWN! :GASP:



BUT FIVE MINUTES LATER...

BUMPER! THOSE HOMBRES! AREN'T THEY STRYKER'S CUTTHROATS?

YES—AND BUSY AT THEIR JOB FROM THE LOOKS OF THE POOR DEVIL TRYING TO ESCAPE! C'MON, LET'S BUST THIS UP!



WE GOT HIM! NOW FINISH HIM OFF!



LET THAT MAN ALONE OR YOU'LL DIE!

TH..THE BLACK DIAMOND!

P.PLEASE HELP ME! THEY'RE TRYIN' TO MURDER ME!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



THIS'LL SHUT YOU UP!

YOU MURDERING SKUNK! NOW YOU'RE GOING TO SWIM UP SALT RIVER!



WHO ELSE WANTS TO JOIN HIM?

HEY-WHATS GOIN' ON HERE?



STRYKER YOU SENT OUT YOUR COYOTES TO MURDER THAT FELLOW! HE'S GOT A PRICE ON HIS HEAD! THE PRICE YOU WANTED TO MURDER HIM FOR, RIGHT?

WHY YOU NO GOOD BLOOD-HOUND! YOU CAN'T ACCUSE ME OF MURDER! I'LL BLOW YOUR MEDDLIN' BRAINS OUT!



SURE! IF MY BACK WAS TURNED, BUT IT ISN'T!



YOU MAY HAVE THE SHERIFF BUFFALOED, BUT NOT ME!



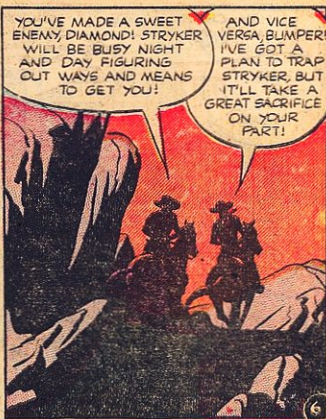
IT'S A PITY YOU SEALED THAT GUN-SLINGERS LIPS, BUT I KNOW WHAT HE'D SAY IF HE COULD! THAT YOU'RE WORKING A MURDER RACKET! YOU PRETEND TO GIVE OUTLAWS ON THE LAW SHELTER! INSTEAD YOU GIVE 'EM A BULLET!

YOU CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING!



CAN'T I? MURDER IS MURDER WHETHER YOU SHOOT A MARSHAL OR AN OUTLAW IN THE BACK! I'LL SEE YOU ON THE GALLOWS, STRYKER, OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!

MAYBE YOU WILL, BLACK DIAMOND! MAYBE YOU WILL!



YOU'VE MADE A SWEET ENEMY, DIAMOND! STRYKER WILL BE BUSY NIGHT AND DAY FIGURING OUT WAYS AND MEANS TO GET YOU!

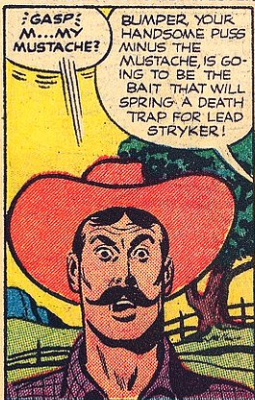
AND VICE VERSA, BUMPER! I'VE GOT A PLAN TO TRAP STRYKER, BUT IT'LL TAKE A GREAT SACRIFICE ON YOUR PART!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



JUST NAME IT! WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

SHAVE OFF YOUR MUSTACHE!



!GASP! M...MY MUSTACHE?

BUMPER YOUR HANDSOME PUSS MINUS THE MUSTACHE, IS GOING TO BE THE BAIT THAT WILL SPRING A DEATH TRAP FOR LEAD STRYKER!



THE FOLLOWING DAY IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN PRINTER...

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, BUMPER? NOW YOU'RE WORTH \$5,000 DEAD OR ALIVE!

I'D GIVE THE WHOLE REWARD TO HAVE ANY DEAR DEPARTED HANDLE BARS BACK!

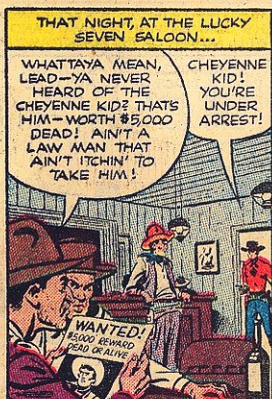
NOW TO ARRANGE A SLIGHTLY INTRODUCTION TO LEAD STRYKER!

THE SAME AFTERNOON, THE CONSPIRATORIAL RING ATTACHED A NEW MEMBER, GINGER HAYES, THE PROFESSIONAL STOOL PIGEON...



WHAT ABOUT IT, GINGER? WE'RE SURE YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING THE FINGER ON THE POOR SLOB'S STRYKER'S BEEN MURDERING! HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO CLEAR YOURSELF!

YA WANT ME TO FINGER THIS HOMBRE FOR STRYKER? EH? OKAY, I GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH STRYKER MYSELF!



THAT NIGHT, AT THE LUCKY SEVEN SALOON...

WHATTAYA MEAN, LEAD—YA NEVER HEARD OF THE CHEYENNE KID? THATS HIM—WORTH \$5,000 DEAD! AIN'T A LAW MAN THAT AIN'T ITCHIN' TO TAKE HIM!

CHEYENNE KID! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!



YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE!

DOESN'T THAT PROVE THE CHEYENNE KID'S HOT?

I'M SOLD, GINGER! LET'S RESCUE THE VARMINT!



HEY—CHEYENNE KID! WAIT! WE'RE HERE TO HELP YA!

LEAD STRYKER—ONE OF YOUR KIND! LET ME TAKE YA TO A PLACE WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE FROM THE LAW!

WHO ARE YOU?



MINUTES LATER, AS STRYKER'S OUTLAWS CONCEAL "THE CHEYENNE KID" UNDER A TARPULIN...

\$5,000! I'D GIVE \$5,000 MYSELF TO GET THE BLACK DIAMOND! I'D GIVE TEN GRAND!

SAY THAT AGAIN! LEAD! YOU'D GIVE \$5,000 TO KILL BLACK DIAMOND? IS THAT ON THE LEVEL?

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

WOULD I KID ABOUT A THING LIKE THAT? THE BLACK DIAMONDS ON MY TRAIL! HE WON'T REST TILL MY NECK'S STRETCHED! IT'D BE WORTH ANYTHING TO RUB HIM OUT!

MAYBE I CAN HELP YA THEN! IF I SAW THIS \$5000 ON THE LINE, MEBBE I COULD FIX THINGS SO YOU COULD BLOW HIM FULL OF HOLES! I KNOW THINGS YOU DON'T!

WHAT D'YUH KNOW? SPIT IT OUT OR I'LL CHOKE IT OUTTA YA! I'LL...

GASP! W. WAIT! I'LL TALK! THE CHEYENNE KID... A TRAP LAID BY THE BLACK DIAMOND! THE KID'S REALLY BUMPER, THE BLACK DIAMOND'S SIDEKICK!

THE BLACK DIAMOND'S COMIN OUTTA THE SIDE DOOR TO CATCH YA RED-HANDED WHEN YA TRY TO MURDER THE PHONY OUTLAW! LEAD! WHAT ARE YUH LOOKIN' AROUND FOR?

I'M SEEN! IF THERE'S ANY WITNESSES TO THIS PAYOFF YOU'LL GET!

NO WITNESSES! JUST ME AN' YOU, GINGER! AN' HERE'S WHAT YUH GET FOR TRYIN' TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME IN THE FIRST PLACE!

EEAAA...

MINUTES LATER, AS STRYKER AND HIS GUNMEN WAIT AND WAIT, AND STILL NO SIGN OF THE BLACK DIAMOND...

SOMETHING'S WRONG, LEAD! HE SHOULD HAVE COME OUT LONG AGO!

SHUT UP! HE'LL BE HERE!

WRONG, LEAD! I AM HERE ALREADY! YOU DON'T THINK I'D TRUST A RAT LIKE GINGER, DO YOU? OR TAKE ANY CHANCES LEAVING MY PAL, BUMPER IN YOUR HANDS! I SAW EVERYTHING!

FIRE! HE'S ON THE ROOF! FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

MOMENTS LATER, AS GUNFIRE ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES THROUGH THE NARROW ALLEYWAY...

BLACK DIAMOND! YOU GOT STRYKER!

NO, SHERIFF—THE DEVIL'S GOT HIM... AND THE DEVIL CAN HAVE HIM!

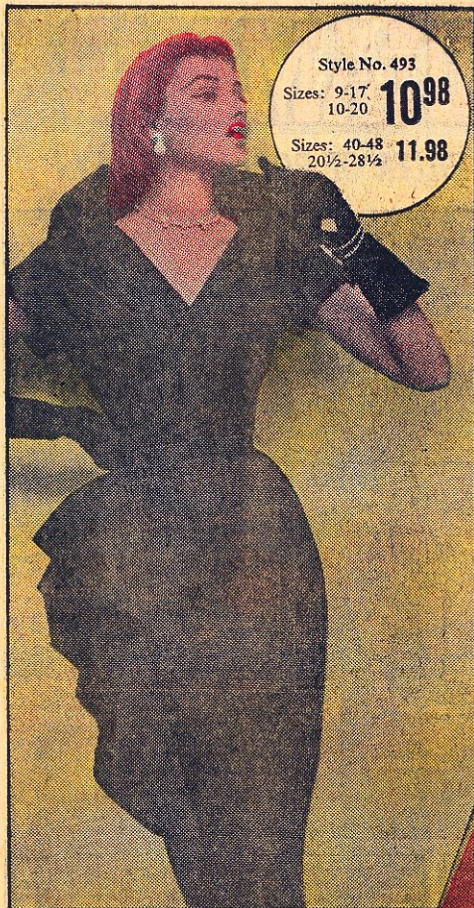
AFTER THE GUNSMOKE DRIFTED AWAY...

BY THE WAY, BLACK DIAMOND, THERE'S A REWARD COMING TO YOU FOR THESE CHARACTERS—OVER FIVE GRAND!

SAY, THAT WOULD BUY ME A FINE MUSTACHE!

NO, BUMPER! LET THE PRICE OF STRYKER'S HEAD BE THE PRICE OF GOOD FOOD FOR THE FAMILIES OF THESE COYOTES! WE MUST MAKE UP FOR THE EVIL OF CRIME WITH CHARITY AS WELL AS BULLETS!

THE END



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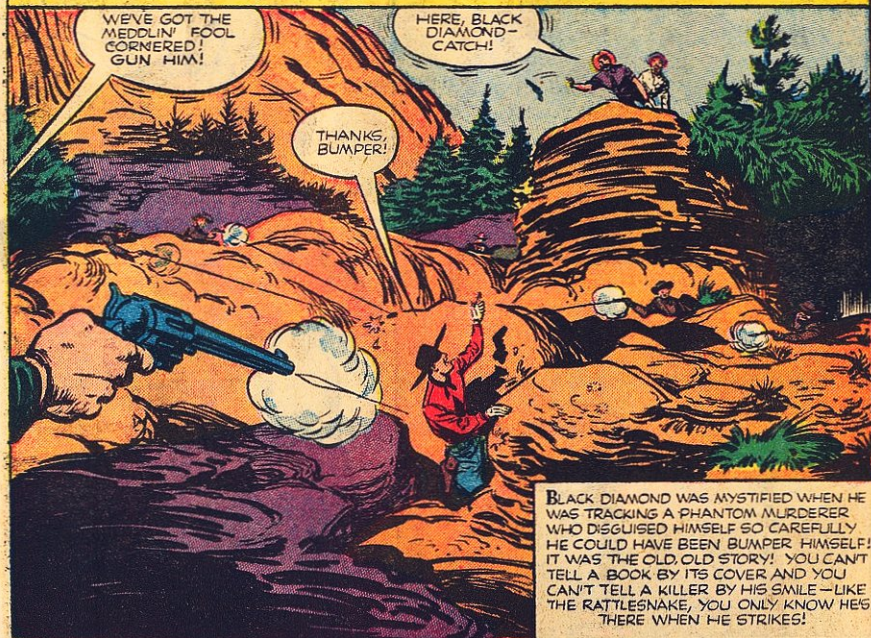
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MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

BLACK DIAMOND

meets "THE PHANTOM KILLER OF POPLAR VALLEY"



WE'VE GOT THE MEDDLIN' FOOL CORNERED! GUN HIM!

HERE, BLACK DIAMOND—CATCH!

THANKS, BUMPER!

BLACK DIAMOND WAS MYSTIFIED WHEN HE WAS TRACKING A PHANTOM MURDERER WHO DISGUISED HIMSELF SO CAREFULLY HE COULD HAVE BEEN BUMPER HIMSELF! IT WAS THE OLD, OLD STORY! YOU CAN'T TELL A BOOK BY ITS COVER AND YOU CAN'T TELL A KILLER BY HIS SMILE—LIKE THE RATTLESNAKE, YOU ONLY KNOW HE'S THERE WHEN HE STRIKES!

BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER HAD JUST STABLED RELIAPAN AND EL LOBO—IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL, SUNNY AFTERNOON IN MAY, 1877! BALM WAS IN THE AIR—AND THE SOUND OF BULLETS!

HEY, DIAMOND! THERE'S FIRE—WORKS DOWN AT THE BANK!

IT SOUNDS LIKE A WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT A BANK-BOOK! COME ON, BUMPER!

BANG!
BANG! BANG!



WE WARNED YA NOT TO TRY AN' STOP US!

NOW WARN US!

LOOK! IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

A MINUTE LATER THE STABLE WAS ABLAZE...



THIS OUGHTA STOP 'EM! THE BLACK DIAMOND'S VERY ATTACHED TO HIS NAG! HE WON'T LET HIM DIE!

FIRE! FIRE! THE STABLE'S ON FIRE!

LEAPIN' TARANTULAS! EL LOBO AND RELIAPON ARE INSIDE THERE! THEY'LL BURN TO DEATH!

WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK! OUR HORSES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THOSE VARMINTS!



WHERE ARE OUR HORSES?

THEY'RE IN THE BACK! YA BETTER HURRY!

ONE THING'S SURE! THIS FIRE DIDN'T SET ITSELF! SOMEONE WANTED TO BUST UP THE CHASE!



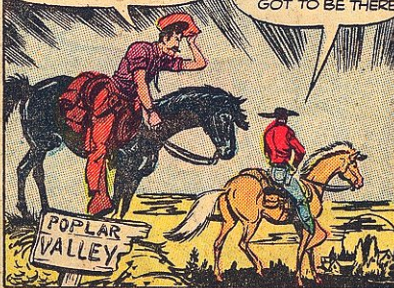
THANK HEAVEN, WE GOT 'EM IN TIME!

THIS SCHEME SURE SLOWED US DOWN, BUMPER! BUT THEY WON'T SUCCEED! WE'LL ERASE THEIR LEAD BY NIGHT-FALL! WE'LL TRAIL THOSE CUTTHROATS TO KINGDOM COME IF NEED BE!

HOURS LATER, AS BUMPER AND BLACK DIAMOND FOLLOW THE TRAIL...

THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WHY WOULD THE OUTLAWS HEAD FOR POPLAR VALLEY! THERE'S NEVER BEEN A STICK-UP OR A KILLING HERE!

I KNOW IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE BUT WE'LL HAVE A LOOK! THIS IS THE ONLY TRAIL INTO THE TOWN! YOU'VE GOT TO BE THERE!



WHERE COULD THEY BE HOLED UP? THIS IS A LAW-ABIDING TOWN! THERE ISN'T EVEN A SALOON HERE!

THEY CAME TO HIDE NOT TO DRINK-BUMPER! PERHAPS THE SHERIFF CAN GIVE US A LEAD...

SHORTLY AFTER - AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

LOOK-DIAMOND! THIS GUN HASN'T BEEN USED IN YEARS!

WAKE UP, SHERIFF! YOU'VE GOT COMPANY BELIEVE IT OR NOT!



BZZZZ... AWK... FLUH... WHA...

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



THE B...BLACK DIAMOND!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE,
AIN'T POPLAR VALLEY OFF
YOUR BEAT?

TILL TODAY IT WAS -
THERE'RE OUTLAW'S
IN YOUR BAILWICK,
POP! THEY'VE TAKEN
REFUGE HERE!



OUTLAW'S...IN POPLAR
VALLEY; YOU'RE KIDDIN',
BLACK DIAMOND - THE
LAST CRIMINAL IN TOWN
WAS MRS. MURPHY WHO
STOLE MRS. KETZER'S
CLOTHING OFF HER LINE
'BOUT TWO YEARS
BACK!

THIS IS NO JOKE -SHERIFF!
A PACK OF COYOTES ARE
HOLED UP HERE AND
WE'VE GOT TO FIND
EM!



BUT WHERE COULD
THEY BE? I KNOW
EVERYBODY IN THIS
TOWN! I'D VOUCH
FOR ALL
OF 'EM!

WOULD YOU VOUCH FOR THAT
FELLOW WHO JUST CAME OUT
OF THE GENERAL'S STORE?

HEY-HE LOOKS
FAMILIAR!



HE'S ONE
OF THE
BANK
ROBBERS!

HEY, YOU!
WE WANT
A WORD
WITH
YOU!

THE BLACK
DIAMOND! HE
TRAILED US
HERE!
GASP!



LOOK OUT!
HE'S GOING
TO SHOOT!

I'VE GOT TO FIGHT IT
OUT! IF HE NAILS ME,
I'LL HANG!

OWho!!

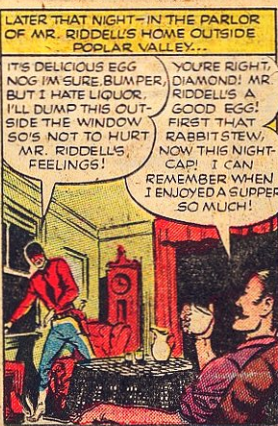
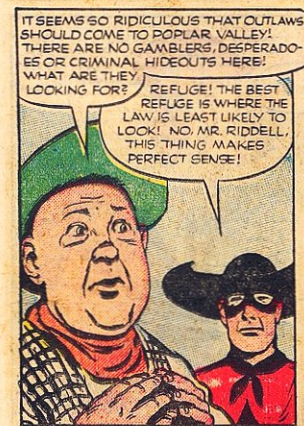
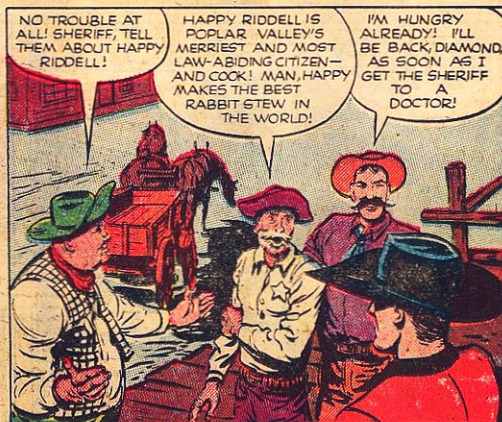
BANG!
BANG!



IF THIS IS THE
WAY YOU WANT
IT, MISTER -
TAKE IT!

UH! OOOOH!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

MINUTES LATER—AS BLACK DIAMOND TAKES A LAST PEEK INTO BUMPER'S ROOM...

HMM... BUMPER SURE MUST HAVE BEEN TIRED! WELL, I'M GONNA TURN IN NOW! WE'VE GOT A TOUGH DAY AHEAD TOMORROW!

AN HOUR LATER, AS BUMPER SNORES BLISSFULLY...

NOT A SOUND FROM HIM! HE'S OUT COLD! NOW TRY THE BLACK DIAMOND!

CRACK!

MOMENTS LATER...

SOMETHING'S UP! SOMEONE WANTS TO KNOW IF I'M AWAKE!

NOT A SOUND THERE, EITHER!

CRACK!

NOW I SEE THE PURPOSE OF THE EGG NOG... TO DRUG US... SO THESE BOYS CAN SLIT OUR THROATS WITHOUT A FIGHT!

SECONDS LATER—IN BUMPER'S ROOM...

HEH! HEH! LIKE HITTIN' A BUMP ON A LOG... EEEAAA!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO SLEEP!

BANG!

AAAAA!!

HAPPY! ARE YOU UP?

I SURE AM! I HEARD SOMEONE PROWLING OUTSIDE! I SEE ONE VARMINT NOW! HE'S RUNNING ACROSS THE YARD—BUT I'VE GOT HIM DEAD IN MY SIGHTS!

HE WON'T GET FAR—THE VILLAIN!

EEEEAAA!

BAM!

HE'S DEAD! TOO BAD—HAD HE LIVED WE MIGHT HAVE DRAGGED SOME INFORMATION OUT OF HIM!

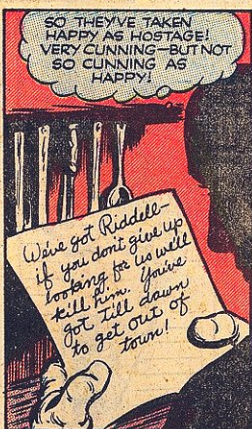
I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! HOW STUPID OF ME! BUT WHERE IS YOUR FRIEND, BUMPER? HE'S ALL RIGHT, I HOPE?

BUMPER? HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THAT EGG NOG DRINK YOU SERVED US, HAPPY—THAT WAS MEANT TO PUT US TO SLEEP—PERMANENTLY!

MY EGG NOG? BUT I ASSURE YOU—IF ANYONE DRUGGED THAT DRINK...

ZZZZZZZ!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

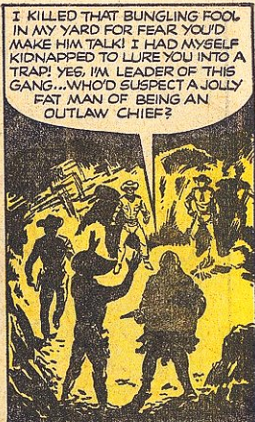


BUT I GAVE YOU NO HINT I'D DO THIS, DID I? RAISE 'EM, MEDDLER!

HAPPY! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE IN WITH THESE OUTLAWS! A HAPPY, LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN LIKE YOU?



ME, LAW-ABIDING? I DELIBERATELY INVITED YOU TO MY HOUSE TO KILL YOU! I DOCTORED THE EGG NOG! I'D HAVE USED POISON IF I WEREN'T AFRAID YOU'D DETECT THE ODOR!



I KILLED THAT BUNGLING FOOL IN MY YARD FOR FEAR YOU'D MAKE HIM TALK! I HAD MYSELF KIDNAPPED TO LURE YOU INTO A TRAP! YES, I'M LEADER OF THIS GANG...WHO'D SUSPECT A JOLLY FAT MAN OF BEING AN OUTLAW CHIEF?



I PLANNED THE ROBBERIES WHEN I'D BE ON HAND TO HELP MY DIM-WITTED COMPANIONS OUT OF JAMS, AS FOR INSTANCE THAT STABLE FIRE YESTERDAY! THEN HOME TO THIS QUIET TOWN—AND MY HOUSE—THE PERFECT REFUGE!

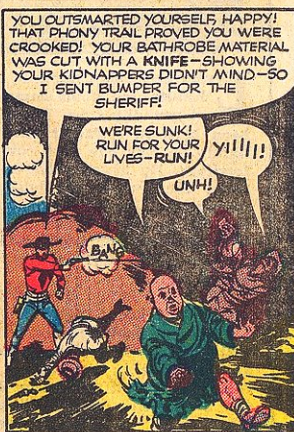
ENOUGH GAS, HAPPY! BLAST HIM AND LET'S GIT OUTTA HERE!



QUITE RIGHT! THE EXPLANATION ENDS—THE FUNERAL ORATION BEGINS! OWWW!

GRAB HIS GUN DIAMOND!

LOOK! IT'S HIS PAL AND THE SHERIFF!



YOU OUTSMARTED YOURSELF, HAPPY! THAT PHONY TRAIL PROVED YOU WERE CROOKED! YOUR BATHROBE MATERIAL WAS CUT WITH A KNIFE—SHOWING YOUR KIDNAPPERS DIDN'T MIND—SO I SENT BUMPER FOR THE SHERIFF!

WERE SUNK! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES—RUN!

UNH!

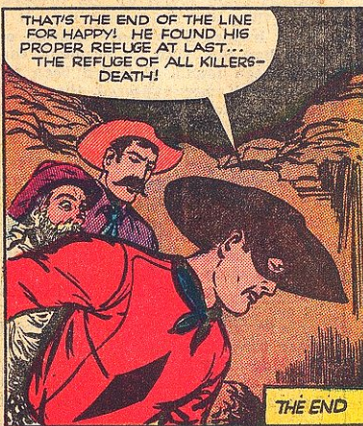
AS HAPPY RIDDELL TRIES TO ESCAPE ALONG A DANGEROUS TRAIL—TOO HEAVY FOR SAFE FOOTING, HE SLIPS AND...



NO! NO!



YEEAAAAA!



THAT'S THE END OF THE LINE FOR HAPPY! HE FOUND HIS PROPER REFUGE AT LAST... THE REFUGE OF ALL KILLERS—DEATH!

THE END

Rustler's Reward



Every cattleman north of the border hoped Kansas Joe would come to him for a job at roundup time. Kansas Joe must have been born in a saddle with a lariat in his hand; he was the best cow puncher in the territory. He always showed up at roundup time; then when the job was finished, he disappeared. No one really cared what Kansas Joe did in his spare time; they just hoped he'd show up for work, and he always did. No one cared, that is, except slow and sure Sandy Bauer.

Sometimes Sandy thought he was crazy for wondering about Kansas Joe. After all, Kansas Joe had not only rounded up more cattle, but had rounded up more rustlers than any cowpoke in the valley. In fact, if the rustlers heard that Kansas Joe was working the range, they would disappear far away. What Sandy wondered was, even though Kansas could round up the rustlers, usually what they had stolen was not all returned. What happened to those missing cattle? If they had met with an accident, they would have been found. If they'd been rustled by the men Kansas captured, they should have been returned. But Sandy kept his doubts to himself because to the big ranchers, Kansas Joe was their savior.

Sandy worked for Fernando Alvarez, who had more cattle than anyone this side of the border. One day before the roundup Sandy lazily sat on the adobe steps of Alvarez' ranch talking to Fernando.

"What about Kansas Joe?" asked Sandy. "Has he come 'round for a job?"

"Not yet," answered Fernando, "but I hope he comes this way lookin'."

No sooner had Fernando finished his sentence than they heard the sound of horse's hoofs down by the gate. Galloping in, leaving a swirl of dust behind him, came Kansas Joe. Bringing his horse to an abrupt stop and

leaping off his back, Kansas Joe walked toward the two on the steps with a bowlegged swagger.

"Howdy, Mr. Alvarez," greeted Kansas Joe. "I'm looking for work, now that it's roundup time. Can you use an old hand?"

"Kansas! I'm glad you've come," hailed Fernando. "The job's waitin' for you."

"Hi Sandy," said Kansas as he settled his long frame on the steps of the adobe building. "Well, it's good to be back. What's the news?"

"Hullo, Kansas," drawled Sandy, watching the lanky cowboy in wonderment. "Ain't much news, I reckon. Things just seem to go along as usual."

"There's plenty of news, Kansas," Alvarez interrupted. "I got some new cattle from across the border, fine steer. I found a man there I can do business with — and I hope to do more."

Sandy thought he noticed an amused light in Kansas' steel blue eyes as he answered, "Could it have been Sanchez?"

"Right you are, Kansas! I didn't know you knew him," replied Fernando in surprise.

"I know him well enough to know he's a good business man," answered Kansas Joe with a wrinkle of amusement in the corners of his mouth.

When the roundup started, Sandy temporarily forgot his curiosity about Kansas Joe. Kansas chose to go off and do his rounding up alone.

One night at their camp, the cow hands were sitting around a fire singing and generally killing time until bed time. Kansas had been away all day. Suddenly as Sandy was about to launch forth on one of his favorite songs, he heard what sounded like a stampede of cattle. Sandy forgot his song and jumped up, as all the men raced to see what was happening. Into camp rode five men; all

were tied and behind them rode Kansas Joe. The men were hauled into camp and guarded in turn by the different cowboys. Kansas had caught them rustling and was going to haul them in to justice. The cattle they had been stealing had been turned back to the Goose Creek Ranch boys to whom they belonged. Another score for Kansas, thought Sandy, as he continued to muse about this strange vagabond.

The next day Sandy and two other men were ordered to lead the rustlers in to the sheriff while the rest of the cowboys continued the roundup. That night when Sandy returned to camp he was not surprised to learn that Kansas had gone off alone again. Alvarez had been with him part of the day; but Kansas was a queer one, Alvarez had said, and seemed to want to be alone.

Also that night Clem Dankin from the Goose Creek Ranch rode over to the camp. He talked for a long time with Alvarez, and Sandy could only gather from their conversation that not all the cattle had been returned from the rustlers. Alvarez didn't seem concerned and replied that Kansas had caught the rustlers and thought he'd rounded up the cattle, but several might have slipped away. Clem, grateful at least to retrieve the majority of his cattle and to know the rustlers were behind bars, rode back to Goose Creek.

Something was trying to make sense in Sandy's mind. He had a hard time sleeping that night, even though he was dead tired. The two questions he couldn't answer were: Where was Kansas Joe? Where were the missing cattle? Sandy's body tossed that night as he wondered and when he awoke the next morning his questions remained unanswered. At dawn Kansas Joe came riding into camp and Sandy thought he looked tired and his horse had evidently been traveling fast for a long time. By breakfast time, Kansas Joe looked as fresh as the rest of them, considerably more so than Sandy, who had tossed all night long.

Sandy, for once, was glad he had the reputation for being slow in body and mind. His good nature and good judgment were admired, but no one thought he'd ever set the world on fire; least of all Kansas Joe. So, it was without suspicion from Kansas Joe that Sandy followed him one day.

Suddenly Sandy was startled by the sound of gunfire. He dived into the nearest chaparral from which he could discern what was going on. Kansas seemed to have done it again, he'd caught more rustlers red-handed! He seemed to be able to smell them out. Sandy's suspicions rolled out of his mind as he watched Kansas in operation.

Kansas knocked a gun from the hand of one rustler; he lassoed another, and by that time the three crooks were willing to reach to the sky for fear of Kansas' gun. Sandy's initial fright was now over, and he started to crawl from behind the undergrowth and go to Kansas' aid. By now Kansas had com-

pleted tying the three rustlers securely to a tree and had left them behind and gone after the cattle. This was strange, thought Sandy. Why not just drive the cattle along to the ranch at the same time he hauled the men in? Sandy stayed in his hidden spot and watched.

Kansas Joe drove the cattle in the direction of the Dismal River Ranch, but he seemed purposely to be driving about five or six of them into a small ravine. As the herd was well-started toward the ranch, except for the five or six caught in the ravine, Kansas returned to his captives. Under point of gun he made them get on their horses, now tied together, and led them as he drove the herd toward the Dismal River Ranch.

As Kansas was now well out of sight, Sandy crawled from under his protective cover and rode over to the edge of the ravine. Looking down he saw six cattle trapped unharmed in the river bottom. The plot made no sense to Sandy but he felt that all he could do was watch and wait. And he watched, and he waited. Finally darkness fell, and Sandy was stiff with cold. Feeling foolish, tired, and uncomfortable he was almost ready to return to camp when he heard the sound of hoofs. Hiding his horse well in the growth by the river, and hiding himself in a spot where he could watch the trapped cattle, he waited.

Kansas Joe rode to the edge of the ravine, looked down to assure himself that the cattle were still there. Using his lasso, with great assistance from his horse, together they pulled the cattle from the gulch. Then Kansas drove the cattle toward the south. Sandy crawled from his hiding place, mounted his horse, and rode at a safe distance behind Kansas, who was riding fast and driving the cattle in front of him. Sandy followed behind. Before long they reached the border, where Kansas stopped.

Sandy halted, dismounted, and crept closer to Kansas to find what was going on. The cattle were herded across the border, and a man had appeared from nowhere. Sandy heard Kansas say, "Here you are, Sanchez. Only six this time."

"Good work, Kansas," a voice replied, "when can I expect more?"

"Maybe in a couple of days," Kansas continued. "The range is lousy with rustlers, ha ha! Makes business good for us, eh?"

Sandy's mind was working overtime. The pieces of the jigsaw puzzle now fitted. He silently crept back to his horse and rode off for the Sheriff's office as fast as he could.

The Sheriff, knowing Kansas Joe, was wide-eyed in disbelief even though Sandy's story sounded logical. It was unbelievable that Kansas, posing as a cowpoke and expert rustler catcher, really out-rustled the rustlers.

After hearing Sandy's story, the Sheriff needing proof, had Kansas Joe followed one day, and the operation followed Sandy's story to the letter. Just as Kansas Joe reached the border where Sanchez awaited him, he was arrested.

It was later proved that Sanchez and Kansas Joe, operating as partners, had made untold money off of the ranchers by selling their own cattle back to them for a price. One of their best customers had been Fernando Alvarez!

THE END

SURE AS SHOOTIN'



10 SHOT REVOLVER

(.38 Caliber)

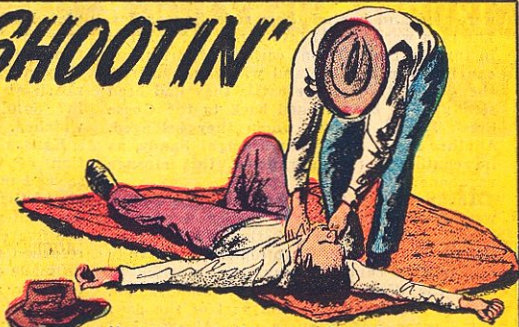
USED IN 1850 BY THE
FAMED BANDIT MURietta!



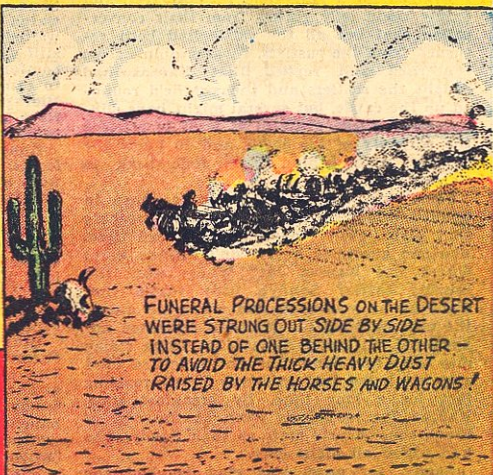
**HE DIED
LAUGHING!**

KEN DUSKIN'S BEST FRIEND
HARRY TEWES BOUGHT A GREEN
AND BLACK STRIPED SHIRT!
KEN THOUGHT IT LOOKED FUNNY
AND LAUGHED AT IT BUT HARRY
DIDN'T LIKE TO BE LAUGHED AT
SO HE SHOT AND KILLED KEN!

GIVE!



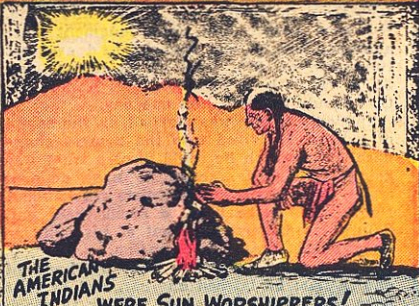
HUNDREDS OF COWBOYS DIED BECAUSE
OF **SKUNK BITES** WHICH CAUSED BLOOD POISONING!
(THE SKUNKS WOULD GO UNDER THEIR BLANKETS AT NIGHT)



FUNERAL PROCESSIONS ON THE DESERT
WERE STRUNG OUT SIDE BY SIDE
INSTEAD OF ONE BEHIND THE OTHER -
TO AVOID THE THICK HEAVY DUST
RAISED BY THE HORSES AND WAGONS!



THE "IRISH POTATO" ORIGINALLY CAME FROM
PERU! THE INCA INDIANS WERE GROWING THEM
AS FOOD! THE SPANIARDS TOOK SOME OF THE
POTATOES BACK TO EUROPE WHERE THEY WERE
SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME!



**THE AMERICAN
INDIANS
WERE SUN WORSHIPPERS!**

THE SUN WAS THEIR SUPREME GOD AND HIS
REPRESENTATIVES ON EARTH WERE THE ROCKS
AND STONES! FIRE WAS THE COMMON BOND
BETWEEN THE INDIAN AND THE SUN GOD!

MEDICAL RESEARCH DISCOVERS TREATMENT FOR PIMPLES

Acne, Blackheads, and other externally caused Skin Blemishes

DON'T LET UGLY PIMPLES BLEMISH YOUR PERSONALITY RUIN YOUR CONFIDENCE OR SPOIL YOUR TALENTS!

DO YOU feel your skin is holding back your chances for popularity . . . for success? Are you afraid people whom you'd like to know will reject you? Thousands of people who felt the same as you—now have clear attractive complexions. They've regained their poise and confidence. You can benefit from their experience!

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH REVEALS NEGLECT CAUSE OF MANY SKIN TROUBLES

Skin Specialists and Medical statistics tell us that broken out skin usually occurs from adolescence and can continue on through adulthood. Adolescents often carry these scars throughout their life. Many never get over the "feeling of embarrassment" and are always conscious of their appearance and complexion. Persistent cases of "bad skin" sometimes continue on through adulthood. In this stage of life, the responsibilities of earning a living and meeting people are essential if you are to climb the ladder of success in your job. It is doubly important to give your skin problems immediate care. Physicians state that to neglect your skin may prolong your skin troubles and make it more difficult to clear up. And, there is no better time to get pimples under control than NOW!

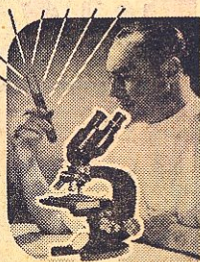
Laboratory analysis using special microscopes gives us the scientific facts regarding those unsightly pimples. High-powered lenses show your skin consists of several outer layers. Projecting through this epidermis are hairs, the ducts of the sweat glands and the tiny tubes of the sebaceous glands which supply the skin with oil to keep it soft and pliable. Skin specialists will tell you that many skin eruptions can often be traced to an over-secretion of oil from the sebaceous glands. As a result of

DON'T SPREAD INFECTION BY SQUEEZING PIMPLES AND BLACKHEADS



Clinical reports state that many people squeeze out pimples and blackheads with their fingers. This is unsanitary and may lead to the spread of the infection. This abuse may also inflame your skin and leave red welts and ugly looking blotches and bumps. As a result your face may be covered with pimples and blemishes. Soon you'll be sorry you ever squeezed or picked at your skin by using this unsanitary method to get rid of skin eruptions.

CAUSES OF PIMPLES AND BLACKHEADS SEEN THROUGH POWERFUL MICROSCOPE



this over-secretion, more oil than is normally required by the skin is deposited on the outside of the skin. Unless special care is taken, this excessive oil forms an oily coating which is a catch-all for all foreign matter in the air. When dust, dirt, lint, etc. become embedded into the tiny skin openings and block them up, they can cause the pores to become enlarged and therefore even more susceptible to additional dirt and dust. These enlarged, blocked up pores may form blackheads as soon as they become infected and bring you the worry, despair, embarrassment and humiliation of pimples, blackheads and other externally caused blemishes.



Illustrated is a microscopic reproduction of a healthy skin:

The sebaceous glands are shown as they project through the many layers of skin. In a normal skin, the openings of the gland tubes are not blocked and permit the oil to flow freely to the outside of the skin.

DOCTORS RECOMMEND THIS TREATMENT

Physicians report two important ways to control this condition: First, they prescribe clearing the pores of clogging matter; and second, inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin.

To help overcome these two conditions, Scope Products' research make available two scientifically-tested formulas that contain clinically proven ingredients. The first formula contains special cleansing properties not found in ordinary cold creams or skin cleansers.

Thoroughly, but gently, it removed all surface scales, dried sebaceous matter, dust, dirt and debris—leaving your skin wonderfully soft, smooth and receptive to proper treatment. The second formula acts to reduce the excessive oiliness produced by the overactive sebaceous glands. Its active ingredients also help prevent the spread of infection by killing bacteria often associated with externally caused pimples, blackheads and blemishes.

COVERS UP UNSIGHTLY BLEMISHES WHILE MEDICATION DOES ITS WORK

To remove the immediate embarrassment of skin blemishes, Scope Medicated Skin Formula helps conceal while it medicates! Unlike many other skin preparations, Scope Formula has a pleasant fragrance! Imagine! The moment you apply the Scope Treatment to your skin you can instantly face the immediate present with greater confidence in your appearance. At the same time, you are sure that the medication is acting to remove externally caused blemishes and helping to prevent new ones. This "cover-up" action gives you peace of mind. No longer need you suffer from the feeling of self-consciousness or inferiority. Make this your first step in the direction of a clear complexion and skin that's lovable to kiss and touch!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

We make this guaranteed offer because to many users of Scope Medicated Skin Formula have written us telling how it helped to clear up their complexion. We want you to try the Scope Double Treatment at our risk. Just a few minutes of your time each day can yield more gratifying results than you ever dreamed possible! If you are not delighted in every way by the improved condition and general appearance of your skin IN JUST 10 DAYS, simply return the unused portion and we will refund not just the price you paid—but **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!** You have everything to gain . . . and we take all the risk! We want all teen-agers, men and women of all ages to get a fresh, new glowing outlook on life. We want you to be the inviting social personality you might be and to help you reach highest success possible in business. Now you can give yourself new hope and bring back that happy joyous feeling of confidence, poise and popularity!

NOW YOU CAN GET THE SCOPE 2-WAY "COVER-UP" ACTION AND MEDICATED SKIN TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT DELAY!

Just send your name and address to SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. 19CP, 1 Orchard Street, New York, N. Y. Be sure to print clearly. By return mail we will ship the Scope treatment to you in a plain package. When postman delivers the package, pay only \$1.98 plus postage. Or send \$2.00 now and we pay postage. No matter which way you order, you have a **DOUBLE REFUND GUARANTEE**. Don't delay, send for the Scope Medicated Skin treatment with its special "cover-up" action . . . today! Sorry no Canadian or foreign C.O.D.'s.

BLACK DIAMOND

in "DUEL TO DEATH"



DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON CONNERS, BLACK DIAMOND! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIS PALS!

OKAY, BUMPER!

I'M COMING AT YOU, CONNERS! LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN DO A LITTLE BETTER FROM THERE THAN YOUR RATS ARE DOING FROM BEHIND...

CRACK!

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK!

WHAT WAS BEHIND THE MURDER OF JOHN CARTER AND THE ATTEMPTED HANGING OF AN INNOCENT MAN IN STARKE, OKLAHOMA WHERE BO FOSTER WAS SELF-APPOINTED BOSS AND LAW ENFORCER? WHEN BLACK DIAMOND TRIED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE VICIOUS PLOT HE WALKED INTO A DEATH TRAP OF BLAZING FORTY-FOURS!

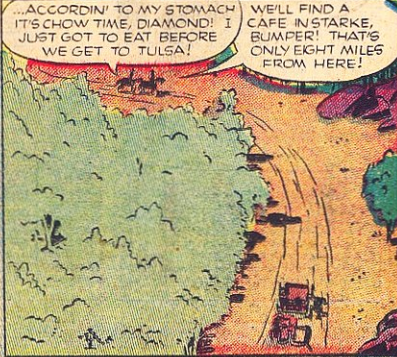
THE HANK CONNERS OUTFIT HAD KILLED BEFORE, BUT THIS TIME THE STAKES WERE BIG! BO FOSTER HIMSELF GAVE THE ORDER TO GET JOHN CARTER... AND FOSTER'S CUTTHROATS ERNE GIBBS, DAVE TULLY, BARNEY YATES AND CAL BRUCE, ALL KNEW THE BIG BOSS WOULDN'T TOLERATE A SLIP-UP.

AT THAT MOMENT, BLACK DIAMOND AND HIS PAL, BUMPER, LIKE JOHN CARTER AND HIS DAUGHTER, JANE, WERE HEADED FOR THE TOWN OF STARKE, UNWARE THAT DEATH WAS JUST AROUND THE BEND.



STEADY, NOW, DAVE! LET HIM GET CLOSER...

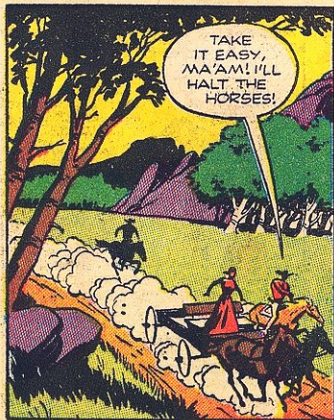
I GOT A BEAD ON CARTER'S HEART, HANK!



...ACCORDIN' TO MY STOMACH IT'S CHOW TIME, DIAMOND! I JUST GOT TO EAT BEFORE WE GET TO TULSA!

WE'LL FIND A CAFE IN STARKE, BUMPER! THAT'S ONLY EIGHT MILES FROM HERE!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



DON'T, LADY! THAT'S BLACK DIAMOND—THE MASKED MARSHAL!

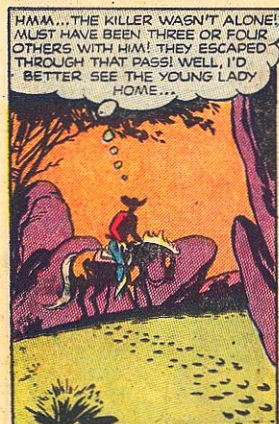


SORRY! A LOT OF GOOD THAT'D DONE HIM IF YOUR AIM WAS BETTER!

FORGET IT, BUMPER! YOU TEND TO THINGS WHILE I TAKE A LOOK BEHIND THOSE BOULDERS UP THERE!



WELL, IT MIGHT... NO, I DON'T KNOW WHO WOULD HAVE WANTED TO HURT DAD!



HMM...THE KILLER WASN'T ALONE! MUST HAVE BEEN THREE OR FOUR OTHERS WITH HIM! THEY ESCAPED THROUGH THAT PASS! WELL, I'D BETTER SEE THE YOUNG LADY HOME...



THERE'S NO SHERIFF IN STARKE, BLACK DIAMOND! THE ONLY LAW THERE IS BO FOSTER; HE RUNS THE TOWN, AND EVERYONE IS AFRAID OF HIM!

OH! I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THERE ARE MORE THINGS THAT NEED LOOKING INTO THAN MURDER! WE'D BETTER BE GETTING ALONG, BUMPER!



IT SEEMED TO ME MISS CARTER WAS TRYING TO AVOID ANY TALK ABOUT WHO KILLED HER FATHER! WHAT DO YOU THINK, BUMPER?

WELL, I ASKED HER BEFORE WHO MIGHTYVE HAD IT IN FOR HIM! SHE STARTED TO SAY SOMETHING, THEN CHANGED HER MIND! I THINK SHE'S SHIELDING SOMEONE, DIAMOND!



JANE CARTER IS A RIGHT NICE GAL, BUMPER, BUT IF SHE WON'T TALK, I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSELF!

THAT MEANS WE WON'T GO TO TULSA YET! I DON'T CARE WHERE WE GO, PARDNER, AS LONG AS WE EAT, I'M STARVED!



AS DIAMOND AND BUMPER WERE RIDING INTO THE CATTLE TOWN OF STARKE AN HOUR LATER...

LOOK, DIAMOND—WE'RE JUST IN TIME TO SEE A HANGIN'!

JUST IN TIME TO STOP IT, YOU MEAN!



HOLD ON, YOU MEN! YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO DO THIS! THERE'S NO LAW IN THIS TOWN, SO THERE CAN'T BE A LEGAL HANGING!

I'M THE LAW HERE, AND I'M MAKIN' IT LEGAL! IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU'LL KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF OTHER PEOPLES BUSINESS, MASKED MAN!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



THE STAR I'M WEARING SAYS IT IS MY BUSINESS, MISTER! IF THIS FELLOW DID ANYTHING TO WARRANT HANGING, HE'S STILL GOING TO HAVE A FAIR TRIAL!

IF HE DID ANYTHING! PAUL KEMP MURDERED A MAN... JOHN CARTER! SHOT HIM FROM AMBUSH! HE WANTED TO MARRY THE CARTER GIRL, BUT THE OLD MAN SAID HE WOULDN'T HAVE NO YELLER CUR FOR A SON-IN-LAW!

THAT'S A LIE!



FUNNY, YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT CARTER BEING SHOT! ONLY THREE PEOPLE WERE AROUND—MISS CARTER, MY SIDEKICK HERE, AND I... UNLESS YOU HAPPENED TO BE HIDING NEARBY!

MARSHAL OR NO MARSHAL, I DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'...

HE KNOWS TOO MUCH! I'LL LET HIM HAVE IT!

BEFORE THE DESPERADO CAN FIRE, BLACK DIAMOND SHOOTS HIS SIXER FROM HIS HAND...



ON, NO, YOU DONT!

CRACK!



GO AHEAD, KEMP! GET GOING!

STOP HIM! YOU HEAR ME? SHOOT HIM DOWN!

ON, NO, YOU DONT!



BLAST YOU! HOW MANY DOES IT TAKE TO HANDLE ONE MAN!

OH!

LUNG!



YOU HELD THE HIGH CARDS THIS TIME, BLACK DIAMOND... BUT THERE'LL BE ANOTHER DEAL!

FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE DECK, EH, FOSTER? REMEMBER THIS—IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO PAUL KEMP, I'LL SEE TO IT YOU GO TO THE GALLOWS, NOW SCATTER!



SO IT WAS PAUL KEMP MISS CARTER WAS TRYING TO SHIELD! DID YOU SEE WHERE KEMP WENT, BUMPER? I WANT TO ASK HIM SOME QUESTIONS!

NOPE! HE SURE UT OUT IN A HURRY! MAYBE HE DID HAVE SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH CARTER'S DEATH AFTER ALL!



I DOUBT IT, BUMPER! BO FOSTER TIPPED HIS HAND WHEN HE ADMITTED KNOWING ABOUT THE SHOOTING, AND I AIM TO FIND OUT WHAT HIS MOTIVE MIGHT BE! LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE IN STARK'S QUITE A SPELL, SO WE'D BETTER GET A ROOM AT THE HOTEL!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

IT WAS NIGHTFALL BEFORE THEY GOT SETTLED IN A HOTEL AND FINISHED QUESTIONING LOCAL MEN ABOUT BO FOSTER—THEN THEY WENT TO A SMALL CAFE AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...

I'M STARVED, DIAMOND! LET'S ORDER SOME GRUB—QUICK!

WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE, BUMPER! PAUL KEMP!



WE DON'T THINK YOU KILLED MR. CARTER, KEMP! AND YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID OF BO FOSTER OR HIS BOYS...

HEY, WAITER!

THEY'RE OUT TO GET ME! ONE OF FOSTER'S MEN, CHUCK CONNERS, CAME HERE LOOKIN' FOR ME A WHILE AGO! HE CHALLENGED ME TO A GUN DUEL TOMORROW!



A GUN DUEL! WHY YOU WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST A MAN LIKE CONNERS!

I KNOW! I'M AFRAID! IF HE KILLS ME IN A DUEL IT WON'T BE CONSIDERED MURDER IN THESE PARTS! AND I CAN'T RUN AWAY BECAUSE OF JANE!



WHAT WAS THIS TROUBLE YOU HAD WITH JANE'S FATHER, PAUL? AND DID MR. CARTER EVER CROSS BO FOSTER?

THAT WAS WHAT CAUSED MR. CARTER TO SAY I WAS YELLOW—AND I RECKON I AM—BO FOSTER TRIED A NUMBER OF TIMES TO GET MR. CARTER TO SELL HIM HIS RANCH AT AN UNFAIR PRICE! MR. CARTER WOULDN'T SELL AT ANY PRICE...



THE LAST TIME FOSTER WAS REFUSED, HE INSULTED MR. CARTER, KNOCKED HIM DOWN! I WAS THERE, BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

MAYBE YOU'RE NOT REALLY YELLOW, PAUL! DON'T TRY TO TAKE ON HANK CONNERS! HE'S HAD TOO MUCH EXPERIENCE AT GUNPLAY! WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHAT HE'S GOT AGAINST YOU!



IT'S BO FOSTER'S DOING! HE FIGURES JANE'LL KEEP HER RANCH IF SHE MARRIES ME! I'VE NEVER SHOT A GUN IN MY LIFE! BUT I'VE GOT TO STAND UP TO SOMEBODY SOMETIME! I'M GOING TO BE THERE TOMORROW!

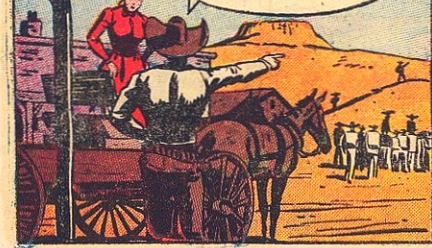
OKAY, BUT YOU WON'T BE ALONE, PAUL! BUMPER AND I WILL BE ON YOUR SIDE!



EARLY NEXT MORNING MOST OF THE TOWNSMEN GATHERED ABOUT CHALLENGE HILL, SO NAMED FOR THE DUELS THAT WERE FOUGHT THERE! THE NEWS OF THE FORTHCOMING COMBAT SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE—BUT IT HADN'T REACHED THE CARTER RANCH...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

FIREWORKS, MISS CARTER! YOUNG FELLER NAMED PAUL KEMP IS GOING TO HAVE IT OUT WITH HANK CONNERS ATOP CHALLENGE HILL!



W..WHY, IT IS PAUL!

JUST KEEP LOW IN THE SADDLE AND MAKE A SMALL TARGET OF YOURSELF, PAUL!

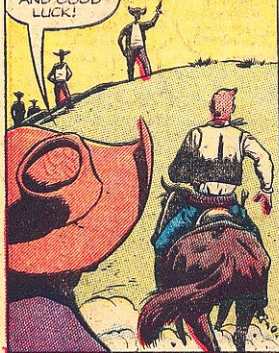
THE DIRTY COYOTES! I'D LIKE TO TAKE 'EM ALL ON!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

THEN, AS EACH DUELIST STARTS UP HIS SIDE OF THE HILL TO THE TOP...

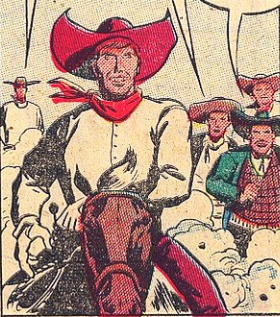
THERE'S THE SIGNAL SHOT, PAUL! GO GET HIM, AND GOOD LUCK!



HERE GOES BO! KEMP WILL BE SORRY...

DON'T GO GETTIN' SOFT HEARTED, HANK—PUT ONE BETWEEN HIS EYES!

EMPTY YOUR GUN IN HIM, HANK! THIS MEANS A LOT TO ALL OF US!



D. DIAMOND! I... I CAN'T! I... I'M SCARED!

NEVER MIND, SON! I'LL MEET CONNERS FOR YOU!

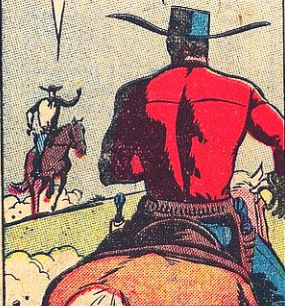


OH, PAUL... DAD WAS RIGHT—YOU ARE COWARD!



GIT READY, KEMP... B... B... BLACK DIAMOND! WHAT THE...

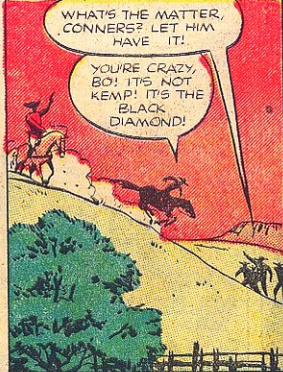
GO ON, CONNERS! I'M GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO DRAW!



BUT CONNERS DIDN'T TAKE THE CHANCE...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CONNERS? LET HIM HAVE IT!

YOU'RE CRAZY, BO! IT'S NOT KEMP! IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND!



HA! HA! HA! YOU SHOWED THE WHITE FEATHER, EH, KEMP?

HO! HO! LILY-LIVERED MAMA'S BOY!

THOSE FOOLS! TO HEAR 'EM YOU'D THINK NONE OF THEM HAD EVER BEEN AFRID! POOR PAUL!



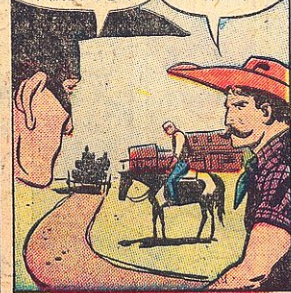
JANE...

MY FATHER WAS RIGHT, PAUL! YOU'RE JUST PLAIN YELLOW! GOOD-BY!



I HATE TO SEE THAT NICE YOUNG COUPLE BREAK UP BECAUSE SHE THINKS HE'S A COWARD! I'LL GO OVER TO THE CARTER RANCH LATER AND TRY TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT!

HOW CAN YOU FIGURE WOMEN OUT? SHE HATES HIM FOR BEING SCARED, AND IF HE'D GONE UP AND GOT KILLED IT WOULD'VE BROKE HER HEART!



AT THE SAME TIME BO FOSTER WAS ALSO PLANNING TO VISIT THE CARTER RANCH...

I'M THROUGH COAXING! I'M GOING TO ASK JANE CARTER JUST ONCE MORE TO SELL! YOU BOYS WAIT OUTSIDE THE RANCH HOUSE! IF SHE REFUSES, BURN THE PLACE DOWN! THEN SHE'LL BE GLAD TO SELL!

I'D BURN IT DOWN ANYWAY IF THE MASKED MARSHAL WAS IN IT! WELL, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AN HOUR LATER, BO FOSTER WENT TO THE CARTER RANCH, WHERE HE GOT THE SAME ANSWER FROM JANE AS HE HAD FROM HER FATHER!

I THOUGHT IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO YOU, MR. FOSTER! THIS RANCH IS NOT FOR SALE! NOW IF THAT'S ALL, PLEASE GO...

YOU'RE AS STUBBORN AS YOUR FATHER, MISS CARTER, BUT I THINK YOU WILL SELL BEFORE TOO LONG! GOOD-BAY, MA'AM!

WELL, BO?

SHH! LET HER HEAR ME RIDE AWAY... THEN GO AHEAD... BURN THE PLACE TO THE GROUND, BUT DON'T LET HER SEE YOU!

BUT MISS CARTER WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD BO FOSTER RIDE AWAY...

LOOK WHO'S RIDING AWAY FROM THE CARTER RANCH, DIAMOND—AIN'T THAT BO FOSTER?

SURE IS, BUMPER—AND IN TOO BIG A HURRY! I DON'T LIKE IT! I'M GOING TO GET THERE QUICK AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

AND ONCE MORE, BLACK DIAMOND INTERRUPTS FOSTER'S GANG...

IT'S CONNERS AND HIS BUNCH AGAIN—THEY'RE TRYING TO START A FIRE!

AIN'T THERE NOWHERE WE CAN GO WITHOUT THAT BLACK DIAMOND HOUNDIN' US?

EEGHRR!

HUH! TAKE YOUR CHOICE, MR. MASKED MARSHAL... CHASE US OR PUT THE FIRE OUT! LET'S HEAD FOR TOWN, MEN!

CRACK! CRACK!

A FIRE! WHO DID THIS, DIAMOND?

HANK CONNERS, MISS CARTER—AT THE ORDERS OF BO FOSTER, I RECKON! DON'T WORRY, I'LL HAVE IT OUT IN A MINUTE!

CRACK! CRACK!

HANK CONNERS REPORTED TO BO FOSTER THE MOMENT HE GOT BACK TO STARKE...

DIAMOND GOT CAL BRUCE, BUT THE REST OF US GOT AWAY! THE BOYS ARE OUTSIDE! BO, WE GOT TO GET THAT LAWMAN!

YEAH, AND I KNOW JUST HOW, HANK! YOU'RE GOIN' TO CHALLENGE HIM TO A DUEL!

WHAT? ME FIGHT BLACK DIAMOND? YUH THINK I'M LOGO?

H'ELL THINK HE'S FIGHTIN' YOU ALONE, HANK, BUT YOU'LL HAVE YOUR MEN AROUND AND I'LL BE IN THIS OFFICE! DIAMOND WON'T HAVE A CHANCE...

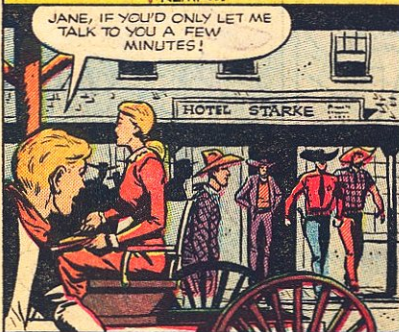
WHEN BLACK DIAMOND RETURNED TO HIS HOTEL THAT NIGHT THERE WAS A MESSAGE WAITING FOR HIM...

"SO IF YOU AIN'T YELLOW, MR. MASKED MAN, YOU'LL BE THERE AT NINE TOMORROW..." IT'S SIGNED HANK CONNERS!

HANK CONNERS! WELL, YOU WERE GOIN' TO ARREST 'EM ALL! NOW I'LL BE ONE LESS WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

JANE CARTER SAW THE CROWDS LINING STARKE'S MAIN STREET AS SHE ARRIVED TO SHOP THE FOLLOWING MORNING! SHE SUPPOSED THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER OF THOSE FREQUENT GUN DUELS... JANE CHOSE TO IGNORE IT AS SHE IGNORED PAUL KEMP...



JANE, IF YOU'D ONLY LET ME TALK TO YOU A FEW MINUTES!



KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, DIAMOND!

I CAN'T SEE BEHIND MY BACK, BUMPER! I'M COUNTING ON YOU FOR THAT!

HERE COMES HANK CONNERS!

EVERY ONE BUT BUMPER WATCHED DIAMOND AND CONNERS SLOWLY APPROACH ONE ANOTHER! BUMPER'S SHARP EYES CAUGHT THE GLEAM OF A GUN BARREL FROM ACROSS THE STREET...



IT'S FOSTER! I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE A FAIR FIGHT! I'LL GET THAT RAT!



THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT BUMPER, OLD PAL!

EVEN WITH BO FOSTER OUT OF THE WAY, THE THREAT TO BLACK DIAMOND WAS NOT OVER—CONNERS' MEN CAME OUT OF THE CROWD FIRING...



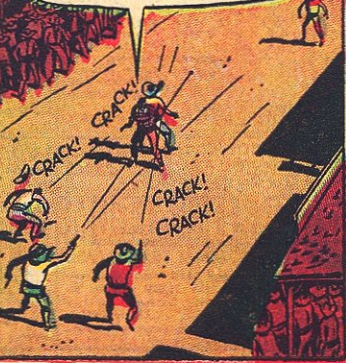
CRACK! CRACK! BANG! BANG!

THROUGH THE SHOWER OF BULLETS BLACK DIAMOND KEPT STALKING CONNERS... BUMPER DESPERATELY COVERING HIM THE REAR...



KEEP IT UP, BUMPER!

IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW, PARD—I'M BACKING YUH UP! JEHOSEPHAT! THEM SKUNKS COULDN'T HIT THE SIDE OF A STABLE FROM TEN FEET!



CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! CRACK!

YEOWW! I TALKED TOO SOON, DIAMOND—THEY GOT MY SIX SHOOTER!



I DON'T LIKE TURNING MY BACK ON CONNERS! THAT'S ALL HE'S WAITING FOR, BUT I'VE GOT TO FALL FLAT, BUMPER!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AS BLACK DIAMOND SPUN AROUND, CONNERS SAW HIS CHANCE...



AGH!!

CRACK!

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, PAUL KEMP SAW HIS CHANCE, AND THE TIME HE WASN'T SCARED... HE RUSHED AT CONNERS...



PAUL!
NO!

WHAT'S THAT CRAZY YOUNG FELLER UP TO? HE'LL GET HIMSELF PLUGGED!



KEMP! GET OUTTA... UGH... Y... YOU...

CRACK!



OH, PAUL—I WAS SO AFRAID...

JANE! AH! SAY DIAMOND TURN AROUND AND TAKE A LOOK WHEN YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY!

YAGHH!



LATER...

SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED THIS WEEK-END! I'M SORRY WE CAN'T BE THERE! THANKS FOR SAVING MY LIFE, PAUL! BY THE WAY, JANE, I FOUND OUT YESTERDAY WHAT INTERESTED BO FOSTER IN YOUR PLACE—OIL! ENOUGH OIL TO MAKE YOU RICH!

WE KNEW THAT RIGHT ALONG, DIAMOND—DAD AND I! BUT DAD WAS A CATTLE MAN! HE LOVED OUR RANCH, AND IT'S GOING TO REMAIN JUST A RANCH!



AND, SO BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER RIDE FORTH TO NEW ADVENTURES...

I RECKON PAUL AND JANE HAVE ALL THE WEALTH THEY NEED IN EACH OTHER!

YEAH! THAT THEY DO, DIAMOND!

GOOD-BY FOLKS!

THE END

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MEN**



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PREMIUMS - CASH

**BOYS - GIRLS
LADIES - MEN**



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NOW**



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